The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association, January 11, 2024 Vol. 91, No. 1

President's Message: Greetings and Happy New Year fellow Hams! We got through our 90th year and are now in our 91st year of operation. Let's hope we get to 100 years and beyond. We had some great presentations this year. We prepared for but got rained out on Field Day but hope to get back out there this year. We celebrated our 90th anniversary at Ken's Steakhouse in October. In December, we may have had our most important meeting of the year in terms of keeping the club moving along, see below. We had several club members volunteer to do presentations in the upcoming months. The Zippity Do Dog outings have gone well and have included members of other radio clubs. Can we try a Buffet type outing this spring? Remember the Marlborough Super Buffet event from several years ago? If you know of a better Buffet type setting let me know. After a quick review of our past and upcoming meetings, there are some photos of our Citation from the Framingham City Council. Lastly I submit some material and pictures about my 99 year old father related to his WWII activity. He was trained as a CW operator but ended up as a tail gunner in one of the most important battles in the Pacific in WWII. While my interest in radio started with his copying those mysterious CW sounds on an AM/FM Shortwave table top radio in the early 1960s, he never talked about his service.

In our December meeting we had a great discussion of what to do with our meetings and many ideas were offered. Here are some of the ideas. You could submit any of the following for the Circuit also.

1. Do you have a new radio that you would like to talk about?
2. Have you fixed an old radio that you would like to talk about?
3. What's on your work bench?
4. Have you put up a new antenna, or have questions for the group about your antenna or antennas in general?
5. Do you have questions about operating that you would like to learn more about?
6. Is there a contest that you like to participate in regularly and would be willing to tell us about it?
7. Is there a favorite net or band that you get on regularly and operate on? Tell us about it.
8. Have you been to a really informative talk elsewhere? If so, do you know the speaker? Could you check if they would be willing to give us a talk? See the EMA.ARRL.ORG speakers list. We have heard from many of these already.

 https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1WHihIdA8SoG7n6wNbuWpYsww6A_qGBeX_xziCnc8I70/edit#gid=1126423911

9. Have you viewed a good YouTube video on a radio related topic that you can suggest for us?
10. In the 1950s, members of this club suggested using a Toastmaster's approach. Go around the room and have some of those present talk for a few minutes about their participation in the hobby. All of us could use more practice in giving short presentations!
11. How about a tour of your station? With iPads and cell phones this is easy.
12. more, more, more.
13. We need the members to take ownership of the meetings! Again, short, relevant, grass roots learning!

Recent activities since last Circuit Vol. 90, #3 in September, 2023

- October 5, 2023: The Why and How of Simple Antennas That Work. By: Bob Glorioso, W1IS and Bob Rose, KC1DSQ. They introduced some basic concepts that are applied to antennas that don't cost a king's ransom to build and work well. Topics covered include: resonance, voltage and current distributions, RF Feedback, end effect, dipoles, verticals, C-poles, wire beams, and stacked dipoles.
- October 28, 2023: FARA 90th luncheon dinner at Ken's Steakhouse in Framingham. See photos on our website. Phil Temples, K9HI, presented an award from the ARRL for our 90th anniversary. Phil serves as the New England Division Vice Director, and an Assistant Section Manager for the Eastern Massachusetts Section.
- November 2, 2023: Harlan Doliner, NE1HD, presented an update on the Coast Guard Auxiliary.
- December 1, 2023: Meeting at McAuliffe Library and on Zoom. Reviewed options for future meetings and we identified speakers and topics for meetings from January to June of 2024. See below. Also we watched a video on Exploring a 1,000,000 Watt FM Tower (part 1) on YouTube from Geerling Engineering. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6_u8x8V4YYs
- December 19, 2023. The Framingham City Counsel awards FARA a Citation for our 90th year anniversary. Sumner Weisman, W1VIV, received the award on behalf of the club.
- January 4, 2024: We had a show and tell. Steve, N1MH, showed his Hack RF device and some of the data he obtained at his residence. There is a lot of RF floating around our houses! Bob, KC1OXG, showed us his station and some of the equipment there. We watched a video from our website of the Framingham Radio Club from 1935. Sumner, W1VIV supervised a QLF CW left foot pedal contest. Dave, K1HT, commented on the 3B7M Saint Brandon Ham DXpedition video, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_6BBbe9-Hw

Upcoming activities:

- Jan 27-28, 2024 Winter Field Day. https://hamxposition.org/
- February 1, 2024 Club Meeting: Aircraft Tracking with SDR. Peter Morrison, AC1KY.
- February 17, 2024: Algonquin ARC Flea Market (Marlborough Flea) Saturday, 9 AM until 1 PM at the Lt Charles W. Whitcomb School (formerly Intermediate/Middle School), 25 Union Street in Marlborough, Massachusetts.
- March 7, 2024 Club Meeting: Antennas for 80 and 160 meters by Bruce Rusch, W1HNZ.
- April 4, 2024 Club Meeting: My Tarheel Screwdriver Dipole by Andy Boughton, KC1DMM.
- May 2, 2024 Club Meeting: Club Officer Nominations. Satellite Communications by Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC.
- May 4 and 5, 2024: New England QSO Party
- June 6, 2024 Club Meeting: Club Officer Elections and 2024 ARRL Field Day planning.
- June 22-23, 2024: ARRL Field Day
- August 22-25, 2024: NE HamXpostion. Thursday, August 22, 2024 8 PM (Comedian Justin McKinney) through Sunday August 25, 2024. It will be at the Best Western Hotel and Conference Center in Marlborough MA. https://hamxposition.org/
- Other: Chinese Buffet lunch or dinner? Marlborough, Route 20 Super Buffet? All you can eat.
 - Lunch: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 11:30 am to 3:30 pm $12.95.
 - Dinner: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 3:30 pm to 9:00 pm $17.95.
 - Saturday & Sunday All Day Dinner $21.95



Left: Framingham City Council Agenda 12/19/23



Left: Sumner Weisman, W1VIV, accepting the Framingham City Council Citation from Mayor Charlie Sisitsky

Below Sumner Weisman, W1VIV and Framingham City Council



How my interest in radio started

From John, KB1VXY

Born in the mid 1950s, and having been brought out to the back yard to see Sputnik and Project Echo (135 foot in diameter metalized balloon acting as a reflector of microwave signals), I was fascinated by technology. But even more by the miracle of invisible radio and TV waves and the glowing tubes that transformed them into sound! My interest in radio began at the kitchen table in the early 1960s. My father was a CW operator and then a tail gunner in the Navy on an TBF Avenger Torpedo Bomber in the Pacific theater of World War II. He was on the USS Kalinin Bay (https://www.navsource.org/archives/03/068.htm), and (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Kalinin_Bay), which was involved in the famous Battle off the Island of Samar (October 25, 1944, (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_off_Samar) which was itself part of the Battle of Leyte Gulf. He used to copy CW at the kitchen table off our AM/FM/Shortwave radio when I was a kid in the 1960s. That got me into shortwave listening. After using walkie talkies in the neighborhood, watching my neighbors play on CB, fixing broken radios as a kid, studying instrumental chemistry (molecular bonds act as small antennas), I didn't get my tech license until 2011 (age 56) after the MA tornados. Photos of the USS Kalinin Bay and the memorials at the Seaport area of San Diego follow.

From one of the memorials below:

ADMIRAL CLIFTON A. F. SPRAGUE LED THE THIRTEEN SHIPS OF TASK UNIT 77. 4. 3 (KNOWN AS TAFFY 3) IN A DECISIVE BATTLE AGAINST A VASTLY SUPERIOR JAPANESE TASK FORCE OF BATTLESHIPS, CRUISERS AND DESTROYERS ON 25 OCTOBER 1944.

"WHAT CHANCE COULD WE HAVE WITH 6 SLOW, THIN – SKINNED ESCORT CARRIERS AND 7 SMALL SCREEN VESSELS, EACH ARMED WITH 5 – INCH PEA – SHOOTERS, AGAINST THE 18-, 16-, 8-, AND 5-INCH BROADSIDES OF THE ENEMY WARSHIPS BEARING DOWN ON US AT TWICE OUR SPEED?"

- ADMIRAL SPRAGUE.

SPRAGUE'S DECISIVE ACTION CAME FIVE DAYS AFTER GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR'S SOLDIERS AND MARINES ESTABLOISHED A BEACHHEAD ON LEYTE ISLAND IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.



Title: Photo # USS Kalinin Bay
Description: (CVE-68) USS Kalinin Bay arriving at San Diego, California on 25 November 1944 for repair of damages received in the Battle off Samar a month earlier. Photographed by Naval Air Station San Diego personnel. The ship is painted in Camouflage Measure 33, Design 10A. Official U.S. Navy Photograph, from the collections of the Naval History and Heritage Command

USS *Kalinin Bay* (CVE-68) was a *Casablanca*-class escort carrier of the United States Navy.



Below: Grumman TBF Avenger (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grumman_TBF_Avenger)



Below: My father on the USS Kalinin Bay squatting on left in front row.



Dad on 99th birthday in September 2023, driving to the party in back yard



Next two photos are of the United States Aircraft Memorial, front and back side. CVE 68 was the USS Kalinin Bay Escort Carrier.



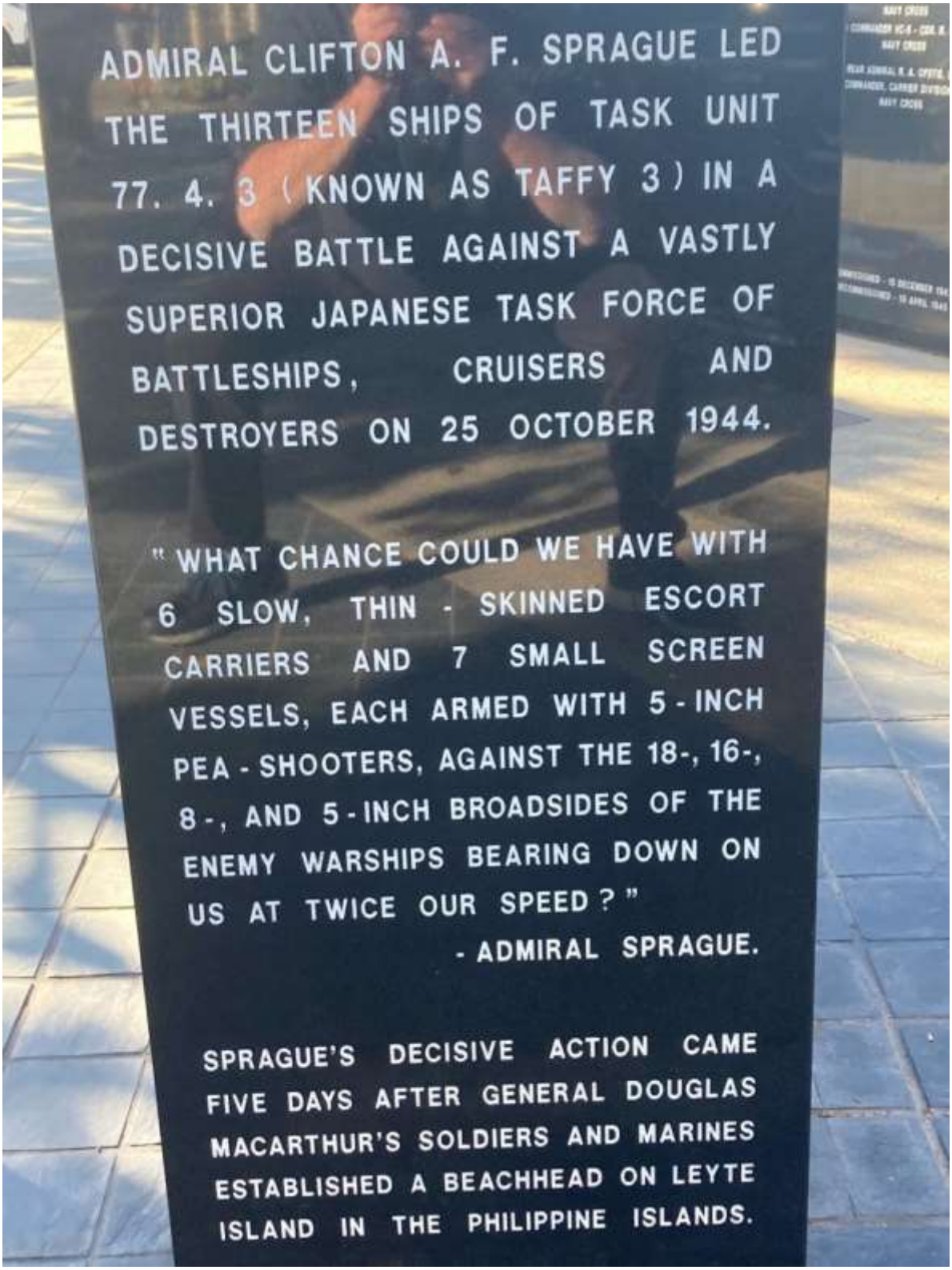

CVL - LIGHT CARRIERS
CVL 22 INDEPENDENCE
CVL 23 PRINCETON
CVL 24 BELLEAU WOOD
CVL 25 COWPENS
CVL 26 MONTEREY
CVL 27 LANGLEY
CVL 28 CABOT
CVL 29 BATAAN
CVL 30 SAN JACINTO
CVL 48 SAIPAN
CVL 49 WRIGHT
CVE - ESCORT CARRIERS
CVE 1 LONG ISLAND
CVE 9 BOGUE
CVE 11 CARD
CVE 12 COPAHEE
CVE 13 CORE
CVE 16 NASSAU
CVE 18 ALTAMAHA
CVE 20 BARNES
CVE 21 BLOCK ISLAND
CVE 23 BRETON
CVE 25 CROATAN
CVE 26 SANGAMON
CVE 27 SUWANNEE
CVE 28 CHENANGO
CVE 29 SANTEE
CVE 30 CHARGER
CVE 31 PRINCE WILLIAM
CVE 55 CASABLANCA
CVE 56 LISCOME BAY
CVE 57 CORAL SEA / ANZIO
CVE 58 CORREGIDOR
CVE 59 MISSION BAY
CVE 60 GUADALCANAL
CVE 61 MANILA BAY
CVE 62 NATOMA BAY
CVE 63 MIDWAY / ST LO
CVE 64 TRIPOLI
CVE 65 WAKE ISLAND
CVE 66 WHITE PLAINS
CVE 67 SOLOMONS
CVE 68 KALININ BAY
CVE 69 KASAAN BAY
CVE 70 FANSHAW BAY
CVE 71 KITKUN BAY
CVE 72 TULAGI
CVE 73 GAMBIER BAY
CVE 74 NEHENTA BAY
CVE 75 HOGGATT BAY
CVE 76 KADASHAN BAY
CVE 77 MARCUS ISLAND
CVE 78 SAVO ISLAND
CVE 79 OMMANEY BAY
CVE 80 PETROF BAY
CARICATURES

The next five pictures are of the Sprague Awards, two of the front side (one with and one without the bust), and then the three other numbered sides.




USS GAMBIER BAY
CVE 73
BATTLE STARS RECEIVED: ★★★★
LOST IN ACTION:
COMMANDING OFFICER - CAPTAIN
NAVY CROSS
SQUADRON COMMANDER VC-10 - LCDR.
SILVER STAR
USS HOEL
DD 533
BATTLE STARS RECEIVED: ★★★★★
LOST IN ACTION: 252
NAVY CROSS
CLIFTON A. F. SPRAGUE
VICE ADMIRAL, USN
BORN 8 JANUARY 1896 - DIED 11 APRIL 1955
AWARDS
NAVY CROSS FOR THE 25 OCTOBER 1944 ACTION OFF SAMAR. ADMIRAL SPRAGUE WAS ABOARD THE ESCORT CARRIER USS FANSHAW BAY DURING THIS ENGAGEMENT.
LEGION OF MERIT MEDAL FOR HIS COMMAND OF THE USS WASP.
GOLD STAR IN LIEU OF SECOND LEGION OF MERIT FOR THE MOROTAI LANDINGS.
GOLD STAR IN LIEU OF THIRD LEGION OF MERIT FOR THE IWO JIMA AND OKINAWA OPERATIONS.
GOLD STAR IN LIEU OF THE FOURTH LEGION OF MERIT FOR OPERATION CROSSROADS.
PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION TO TASK UNIT 77.4.3, THE ESCORT CARRIERS AND SCREEN HE COMMANDED OFF SAMAR.
PHILIPPINE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION TO TASK UNIT 77.4.3.

Side 1

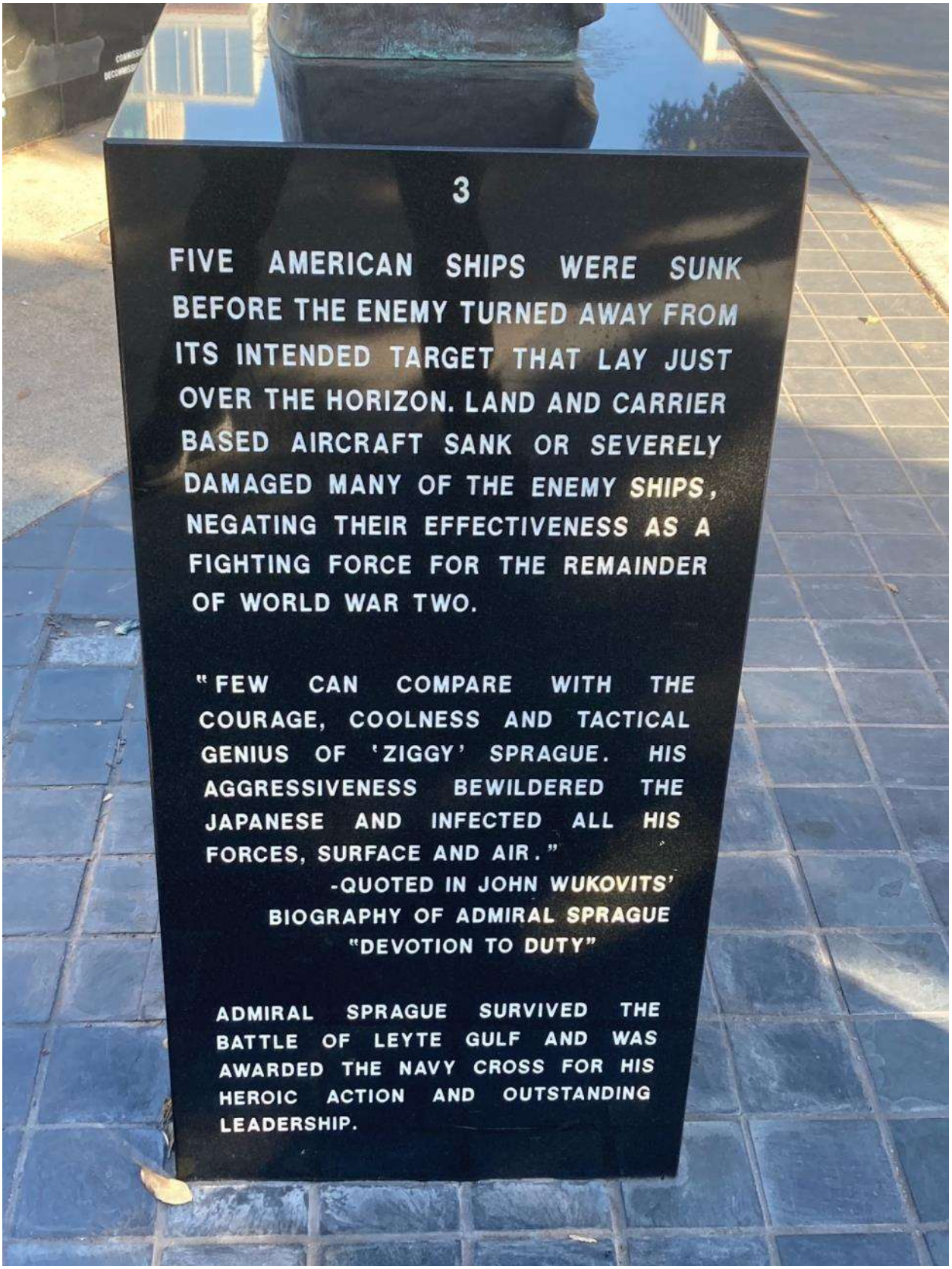


“Thin - skinned escort carriers … armed with 5 –inch pea - shooters”

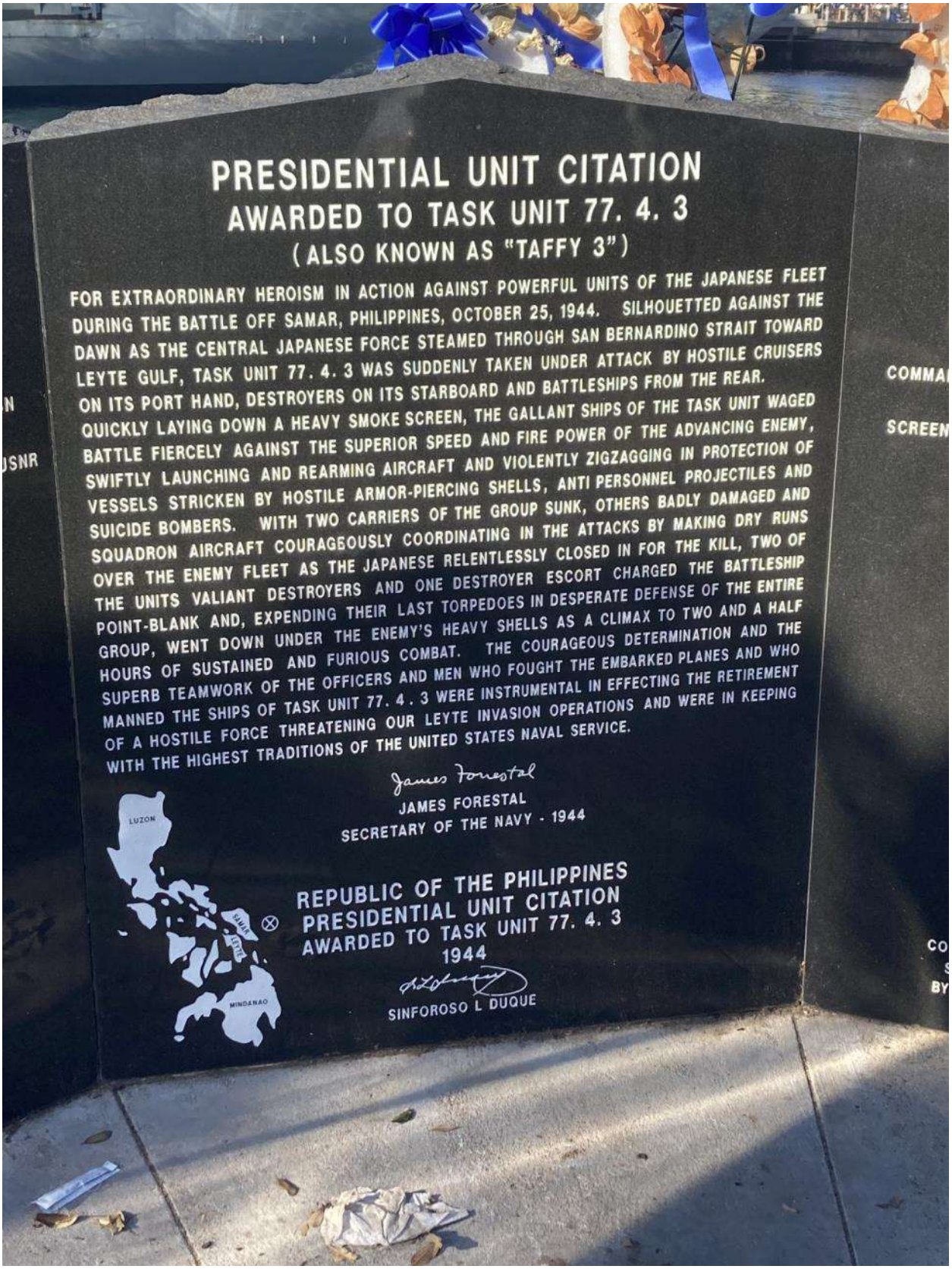
Side 2, not good quality picture.

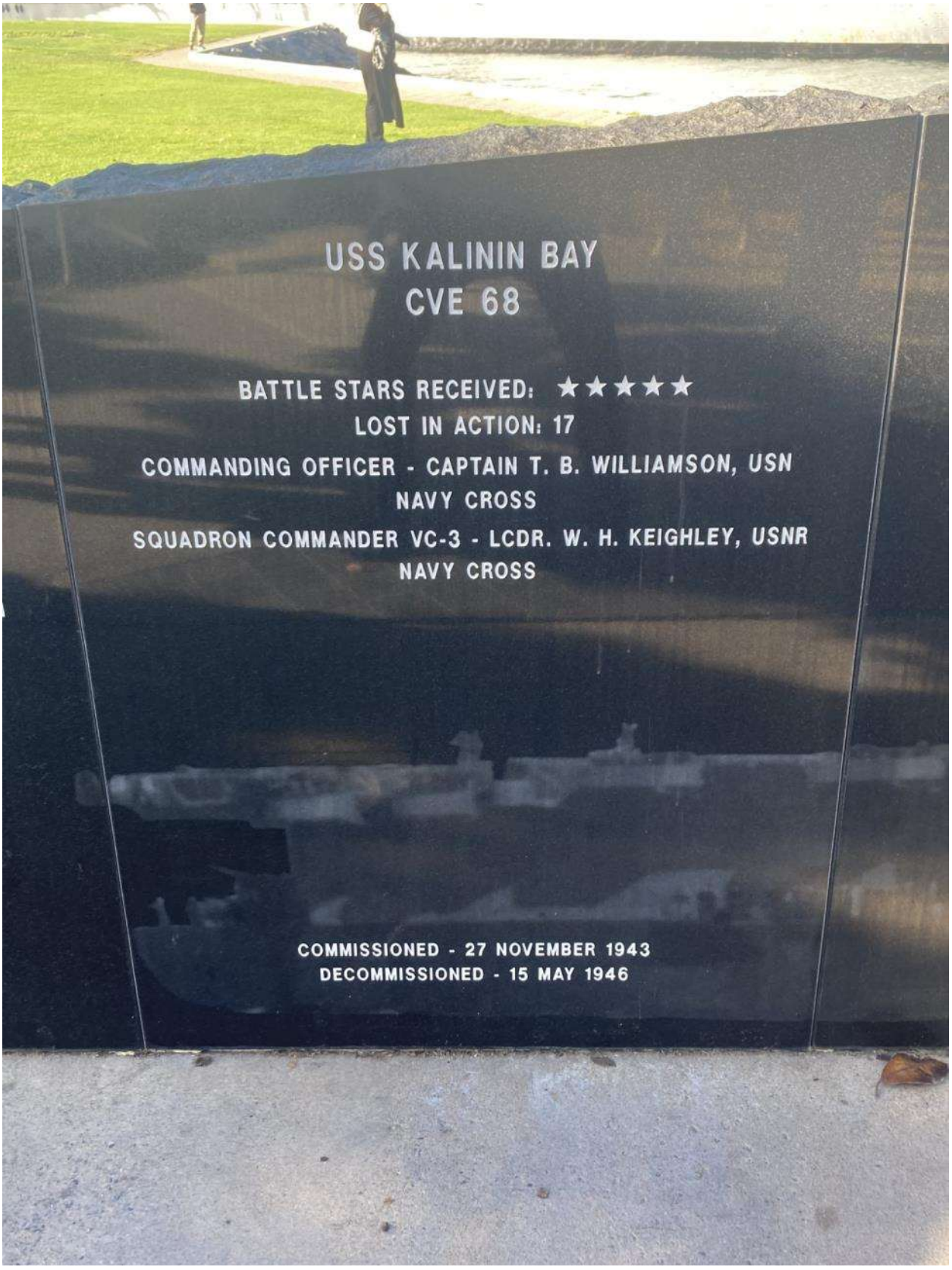


Side 3


3
FIVE AMERICAN SHIPS WERE SUNK BEFORE THE ENEMY TURNED AWAY FROM ITS INTENDED TARGET THAT LAY JUST OVER THE HORIZON. LAND AND CARRIER BASED AIRCRAFT SANK OR SEVERELY DAMAGED MANY OF THE ENEMY SHIPS, NEGATING THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AS A FIGHTING FORCE FOR THE REMAINDER OF WORLD WAR TWO.
"FEW CAN COMPARE WITH THE COURAGE, COOLNESS AND TACTICAL GENIUS OF 'ZIGGY' SPRAGUE. HIS AGGRESSIVENESS BEWILDERED THE JAPANESE AND INFECTED ALL HIS FORCES, SURFACE AND AIR."
-QUOTED IN JOHN WUKOVITS' BIOGRAPHY OF ADMIRAL SPRAGUE "DEVOTION TO DUTY"
ADMIRAL SPRAGUE SURVIVED THE BATTLE OF LEYTE GULF AND WAS AWARDED THE NAVY CROSS FOR HIS HEROIC ACTION AND OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP.

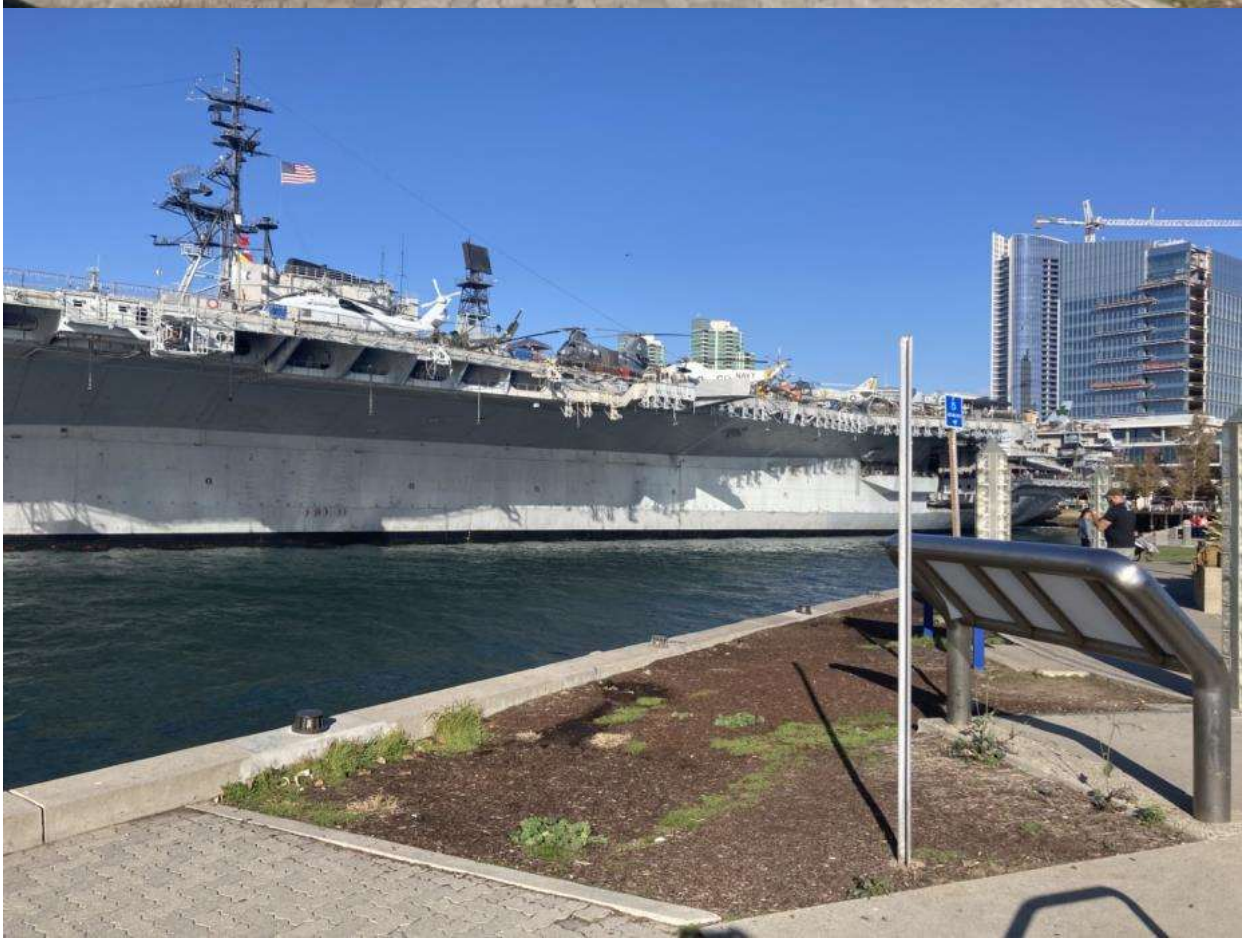
The next two pages are of the Presidential Citation Award and the Kalinin Bay Memorial stone.




USS KALININ BAY
CVE 68
BATTLE STARS RECEIVED: ★★★★★
LOST IN ACTION: 17
COMMANDING OFFICER - CAPTAIN T. B. WILLIAMSON, USN
NAVY CROSS
SQUADRON COMMANDER VC-3 - LCDR. W. H. KEIGHLEY, USNR
NAVY CROSS
COMMISSIONED - 27 NOVEMBER 1943
DECOMMISSIONED - 15 MAY 1946

USS Midway, which was right next to these memorials, two photos of one side.





End section by John Iwuc, KB1VXY

Regular Meetings: Club meetings are held on Zoom on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM, and some meetings will also be hybrid, usually at either the McAuliffe branch of the Framingham Library. Always check the webpage first. Members will get an email invitation before the meeting. **Members should be sure that they opted in for email notifications and that their email on record is accurate!** Non-members may request an invitation from president@w1fy.org.

Club Nets:

- FARA Net: Sunday, 7:30PM, output frequency 147.15 / input frequency 147.75, - stay tuned for PL tone. social/chat, emergency preparedness, amateur radio questions, Echolink enabled. W1FY-R
- Wednesday 7:30 pm, Informal Health and Wellness Check-in Net: Echolink enabled, W1FY-R.
- Scanner listeners are invited to let us know you follow the nets by sending an email to contact@W1FY.org

Club Web Site: W1FY.org

Social Media:

- https://www.facebook.com/FARAW1FY/

Dues: Flat rate of $20 per year per person or family, and no separate repeater fee. Paid members will be posted on the web page. You can join/renew/pay online at http://w1fy.org/membership-form

Testing: Exams on hold while city offices are unavailable.

Mail Address: Framingham Amateur Radio Association, 330 Cochituate Road, #5123 Framingham, MA 01701 -9998

Edits and comments – January 14, 2024

1. Thanks to Steve Hewlett, N4NIV, for his editorial assistance.
2. Leandra Maclennan, AF1R writes: "There is a very good, detailed description of the Battle of Leyte Gulf in the book *Twilight of the Gods*, by Ian W. Toll, pages 260 to 287. This is the third volume of a 3 book history of the Pacific theater during WWII."
3. Glenn Axelrod, KC1HPZ writes: "Thanks for that incredible story mentioning your father's participation in the Battle off Samar. I found an article that gives a lot of information about what was involved in being a radioman/gunner on an Avenger. I share just in case you're not already familiar with it:" https://www.pearlharboraviationmuseum.org/blog/mystery-middle-seat/